



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 18 March 2004

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports the Department of Energy's internal watchdog says nuclear weapons plants have eliminated or reduced training for guards responsible for repelling terrorist attacks; thus there is no guarantee the plants can be adequately defended. (See item [5](#))
- The Associated Press reports downtown Las Vegas hotels are stepping up sanitation efforts after the number of people who reported being sickened by a virus during visits over the past four months climbed past the 1,000 mark. (See item [20](#))
- Techworld reports Macromedia has revealed two security holes: the first described as a "moderate" risk affecting all Mac OS X versions of its latest MX software; the second described as "critical" concerns how the software handles SOAP requests. (See item [24](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [General](#); [DHS/IAIP Web Information](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *March 17, Associated Press* — Davis-Besse nuclear plant is shut down. Valve problems caused the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant in Oak Harbor, OH, to stop producing electricity Wednesday, March 17, a day after it was restarted following a two year shutdown because of safety concerns. During the plant's startup Tuesday, March 16, operators

found three valves that will need to be repaired, said plant spokesperson Richard Wilkins. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recently granted FirstEnergy Corp. permission to restart the plant, which was shut down more than two years ago after inspectors found that acid had eaten nearly all the way through a steel lid on the reactor. Several temporary halts are part of the restart schedule, which started with output at partial capacity. Had there not been valve problems, operators would have boosted output to 50 percent within days, Wilkins said.

Operators hope to have the plant producing electricity again next week, said Todd Schneider, spokesperson for FirstEnergy. NRC inspectors are monitoring the process.

Source: <http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/world/8208160.htm>

2. *March 17, Associated Press* — **NRC to boost oversight of Oyster Creek nuclear power plant. Federal regulators will increase their oversight of the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant after learning that workers there had once again failed to notice a power line ruined by water.** The increased scrutiny by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will continue for at least a year and could last longer if problems persist, officials said. Neil Sheehan, an NRC spokesperson, said that the agency has not decided how it will boost oversight of the plant, but occasional visits by specialists are likely. **This was the third time in eight years that a power line problem had gone unnoticed by plant workers, officials said.** The faulty line caused the loss of a power distribution box that allocates electricity to safety-related equipment, and NRC regulations mandated that plant operators shut down the reactor as a precaution. Although the failed line serves an important function in transmitting emergency power to vital equipment, plant officials said the problem never posed any danger because other contingencies could have kicked in. Oyster Creek nuclear power plant is located in Forked River, NJ.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/ny-bc-nj--oystercreek0317mar17.0.5832914.story?coll=ny-ap-regional-wire>

3. *March 17, Associated Press* — **Blasts shake gas distribution plant. A series of explosions shook a gas distribution plant in suburban Miami, FL, on Wednesday, March 17, sending plumes of smoke into the air and forcing evacuations in the surrounding area as fire threatened scores of gas storage tanks. Fire officials said they did not know what caused the explosions,** which started as a flatbed truck was delivering tanks of acetylene gas to the Airgas South Inc. Plant. Company spokesperson Jim Ely said the plant distributes flammable gases including acetylene, used in welding. An area within a half-mile of the plant was evacuated, said Miami-Dade Fire Rescue spokesperson Luis Fernandez.

Source: <http://www.in-forum.com/ap/index.cfm?page=view&id=D81C86881>

4. *March 17, Reuters* — **TVA's Sequoyah 1 nuke still shut after trip.** The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) said Wednesday, March 17, its 1,148 megawatt Sequoyah 1 nuclear unit in Tennessee remained shut following an automatic reactor trip late Monday, March 15. The unit, in Soddy-Daisy, TN, had been running at full power prior to the trip, a TVA spokesperson Gil Francis said. He said **operators were working to determine what had caused the trip** and, although there was no word on when the unit would return to service, the outage is not expected to be lengthy.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=4588597>

5. *March 16, Associated Press* — **Energy inspector says cuts in training reduce nuclear security.** Nuclear weapons plants have eliminated or reduced training for guards responsible for

repelling terrorist attacks, leaving the government unable to guarantee the plants can be adequately defended, the Department of Energy's (DOE) internal watchdog said Tuesday, March 16. One plant has reduced training hours by 40 percent, and some plants conduct tactical training only in classrooms, according to a report from the department's inspector general.

"Inconsistent training methods may increase the risk that the department's protective forces will not be able to safely respond to security incidents or will use excessive levels of force," said the report prepared by Inspector General Gregory H. Friedman's office. The National Nuclear Security Administration, which protects nuclear plants, acknowledged in a letter responding to the inspector general that training for guards has suffered because of overtime demands at weapons plants. It promised to review training to make sure it was adequate. DOE spokesperson Jeanne Lopatto said Tuesday the agency already has increased its budget request in fiscal 2005 for security and safeguards by more than \$150 million over this year.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/nation/2452833>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Sector

6. *March 17, Sun–Sentinel (Palm Beach County, FL)* — **Fuel tanker rolls over, shuts I–95 for hours in Palm Beach County.** A weary trucker flipped a fuel tanker off Interstate 95 early Tuesday morning, closing the highway for hours and tangling traffic for miles around, Florida state investigators said. **The McKenzie Tank Lines truck he was driving was carrying about 2,300 gallons of diesel fuel and 6,500 gallons of gasoline, according to the company.** Some spilled and has yet to be entirely scrubbed from the soil, Frith said. Firefighters on Tuesday took pains to keep it from oozing into a nearby canal, Boca Raton Fire Rescue spokesman Frank Correggiosaid. Firefighters blanketed the area with foam to contain wind-blown fumes and dampen the chances of ignition, Correggio said. Still, "when you consider the potential danger that this thing had and where the location was — right next to [the Boca Raton] Airport and train tracks and a professional office center — you can't take chances," Highway Patrol Lt. Tim Frith said.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/palmbeach/sfl-ptanker17mar17.0.4727005.story>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *March 17, Reuters* — **U.S. Air Force tanker bidding could reopen. U.S. Air Force Secretary James Roche said on Wednesday he was prepared to reopen bidding to acquire new aerial refueling tankers if a contentious plan to lease and buy 100 aircraft from a contractor was found to be unfair.** After studies were completed on possible alternatives to the deal, Roche said a new competition might make sense, opening the door to rivals. "We would then have competition, it would make sense. I would be delighted to do it," Roche said. The current tanker plan has been placed on hold pending a Pentagon investigation into whether there was improper contact between the Air Force and the company during negotiations.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=4587988>

8. *March 17, Washington Post* — **Simulated attacks repelled in antimissile war game.** In a war game run at Schriever Air Force Base in Colorado on Tuesday, March 16, a country resembling North Korea launched six ballistic missiles at the United States and put to the test an antimissile system modeled after the one being developed by the Bush administration. **The simulation highlighted the potential complexities facing U.S. officials as they consider how they intend to use the national antimissile system that, in its most rudimentary form, is scheduled to begin operations later this year.** Lifting a veil on some of the planning to devise operating procedures and rules of engagement for the new system, the Pentagon invited a small group of reporters to view a brief missile defense war game at the Joint National Integration Center. **The center is responsible for designing a missile defense simulation dubbed MDWAR and training the military crews that will operate the antimissile system.** Here, at computer consoles with displays like those that will be used to monitor enemy missile launches around the world and launch interceptors, senior commanders and field teams can "test drive" the system to learn its probable behavior and refine draft concepts and practices.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A64578-2004Mar_16.html

9. *March 16, Aerospace Daily* — **Marines expect to field Dragon Eye UAVs in Iraq.** The U.S. Marine Corps Systems Command (MARCORSYSCOM) is expected to begin fielding 41 backpack-portable Dragon Eye unmanned aerial vehicles in Iraq in May. "We are playing a fine line expediting as fast as we can, but also trying to make sure we have all the program support in place as well ... training, sustainment, all the rest of that," said Program Manager Lt. Col. Don Bruce. **The AeroVironment Dragon Eye is a battery-powered surveillance UAV with a 45-inch wingspan. It is launched by hand or with a bungee cord and controlled via a laptop ground station. Bruce said that MARCORSYSCOM plans to buy 323 Dragon Eye systems over the next five years.** He said the systems will include spares aircraft, which will be deployed forward in the logistic or combat service support element so that units will have ready access to them. The Marine Corps wants to make certain there is a depot-level repair capability as well as the ability to repair systems in the field. MARCORSYSCOM is spreading out the delivery of the systems because it doesn't want to have them produced faster than they can be fielded.

Source: http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_aerospacedaily_story.jsp?id=news/dra03164.xml

[[Return to top](#)]

Banking and Finance Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

Transportation Sector

10. *March 17, General Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-504T: Aviation Security: Challenges Delay Implementation of Computer-Assisted Passenger Pre-Screening System**

(**Testimony**). GAO was asked to summarize the results of its previous report that looked at CAPPs II. In a recent report (GAO-04-385), GAO recommended that the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) develop project plans, including schedules and estimated costs; a plan for completing critical security activities; a risk mitigation strategy for system testing; policies governing program oversight; and a process by which passengers can correct erroneous information. GAO identified three additional challenges the Transportation Security Administration faces that may impede the success of CAPPs II. **These challenges are developing the international cooperation needed to obtain passenger data, managing the possible expansion of the program's mission beyond its original purpose, and ensuring that identity theft—in which an individual poses as and uses information of another individual—cannot be used to negate the security benefits of the system.** GAO believes that these issues, if not resolved, pose major risks to the successful deployment and implementation of CAPPs II. Highlights – <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04504thigh.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-504T>

11. *March 16, L.A. Daily News* — **Council OKs maglev funds. Despite skepticism over bringing a maglev train to Los Angeles, the City Council on Tuesday, March 16, unanimously approved spending more than \$500,000 to join a regional study of a line from West Los Angeles to Ontario Airport.** The council voted 14-0 on what many members called a traffic solution for future generations. "We have an opportunity to exert leadership in the region," said City Councilman Antonio Villaraigosa, chairman of the council's Transportation Committee. Villaraigosa said he, too, still had questions about magnetic levitation. The city is the last of three regional bodies to support the Southern California Association of Government's (SCAG) efforts to pursue a first \$5.5 billion segment of a regional maglev system with the 55-mile line between West Los Angeles and Ontario Airport. SCAG was seeking \$1 million from Ontario, San Bernardino Associated Governments and Los Angeles to match \$2.5 million in federal funds secured by Sen. Dianne Feinstein to further study the line's feasibility. SCAG says the 112-mph line would be built through a public-private partnership with government loans that would be paid off with ticket revenues of about \$10 per one-way ride.

Source: http://www.dailynews.com/Stories/0.1413.200%7E20954%7E202192_5.00.html

12. *March 16, Government Executive Magazine* — **TSA plans to beef up passenger, cargo screening efforts.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) plans to screen all high-risk air cargo and begin installing new passenger and baggage scanning technology at airports in fiscal 2005, the agency's acting director, retired Navy Adm. David Stone, told Congress last week. **Recent breaches have highlighted gaps in cargo screening. For example, three men from the Dominican Republic were caught at Miami International Airport on January 31 after hiding in a shrink-wrapped pallet on a cargo plane from Santo Domingo. The aviation industry has resisted mandates that would require screening of all cargo carried aboard passenger aircraft.** To address immediate gaps, TSA plans to hire 100 cargo inspectors and 300 additional aviation security inspectors this fiscal year, Stone said. By the end of fiscal 2004, TSA plans to test a new machine that inspects loose items not in containers. Stone said the machines could be fielded in fiscal 2005. Stone added that about 100 airports are participating in a TSA program that permits federal security directors at airports to use screener personnel and explosive trace detection systems to screen cargo during nonpeak travel times.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0304/031604c1.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

13. *March 17, Ann Arbor News (MI)* — **Anthrax scare may have been prank.** The Livingston County Judicial Center in Howell, MI, was evacuated Tuesday, March 16, after an anthrax scare now believed to be a hoax. Family Court Judge A. John Pikkarainen and two of his assistants were exposed to the substance and were taken to the hospital, Howell Fire Chief Jim Reed said. **A fourth person, U.S. Postal Carrier Ed Latson, also was taken to the hospital.** The FBI responded along with the Livingston County Hazardous Materials Team. FBI Senior Agent Greg Stejskal said **a letter accompanied the package claiming to contain anthrax in the form of a white powdery substance.** Stejskal said the letter was also taken to the public health laboratory for testing. **This is the first anthrax scare in a county building since the rash of threats received since just after the 9/11 terrorist attacks,** Livingston County Undersheriff Bob Bezotte said. All of the previous threats were determined to be pranks, he said.

Source: http://www.mlive.com/news/aanews/index.ssf?/base/news-2/1079_53837745431.xml

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture Sector

14. *March 17, Agriculture Online* — **Higher grain prices could affect feeder calf prices. Crop prices reaching seldom-seen highs of \$9 per bushel for soybeans and \$3 for corn opened the discussion at an agricultural outlook meeting for farmers in Chillicothe, MO, Monday night, March 15.** But, a University of Missouri (MU) livestock analyst reminded producers that good grain prices could affect cattle prices. "Higher feed costs will affect what feedlots are willing to pay for calves," said Scott Brown of the MU Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI.) The meeting was one of 15 being held across the state by FAPRI economists who are bringing the results of their 10-year baseline projection to the farm level. "Feeder cattle (400- to 500-pound calves) are still selling strong," Brown said. "But prices of heavier calves have not maintained their strength." Longer term, Brown said cattle prices should remain strong at least through 2006, as the supply of beef remains tight. Brown reminded farmers that steaks now average about \$6.50 a pound in the supermarket, compared with what was considered a good price of \$4.50 just a couple of years ago.

Source: http://www.agriculture.com/default.sph/AgNews.class?FNC=goDe tail_ANewsindex_html_51439_1

15. *March 17, Associated Press* — **Two bird flu cases confirmed in Netherlands.** Testing at two farms has confirmed an outbreak of a weak strain of bird flu in the Netherlands, the government said Wednesday, March 16. **A duck and a chicken farm were cleared earlier this week to try to prevent it from spreading, even though the strain is classified as "not dangerous," Agriculture Minister Cees Veerman said in a letter to parliament. Nearly 23,000 birds were slaughtered.** Japan, among the Asian countries affected by a more serious strain of the virus, announced a ban on Dutch poultry, as did Russia. Some strains of bird flu, or avian

influenza, can be fatal to poultry flocks. Last year, the Netherlands suffered a major outbreak which forced the slaughter of more than 30 million birds, or one-third of the commercial stock. The latest infections were discovered in routine inspections introduced after last year's epidemic. The birds showed no symptoms of the illness, but had developed antibodies.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/health/wire/sns-ap-netherlands-bird-flu.0.192435.story?coll=sns-ap-health-headlines>

16. *March 17, New York Times* — Plan for sharp rise in mad cow testing gets mixed reaction.

The Department of Agriculture's plan for a tenfold increase in testing for mad cow disease was greeted Wednesday, March 16, with a mixture of optimism and skepticism. The plan, announced Monday, involves testing half the nation's 446,000 "downer" cows — animals deemed at higher risk of having mad cow disease because they cannot walk or because they show signs of nervous system disorders. It will also test 20,000 older, apparently healthy cows at slaughter. **Some experts in risk analysis said the plan was an excellent way to assess the problem, but consumer groups and trading partners were not convinced. Japan, until December one of the largest importers of American beef, said its ban would continue until the cattle industry tested every cow slaughtered.** "We want to see the U.S. government introduce the same system for beef safety, or at least an equivalent system, that we have in Japan," said Tadashi Sato, agricultural attaché at the Japanese Embassy in Washington, The Associated Press reported. "We test all slaughtered cattle, regardless of age — not some."

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/03/17/national/nationalspecial2/17COW.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

Food Sector

17. *March 16, Food Safety and Inspection Service* — Georgia firm recalls cooked ham for possible *Listeria* contamination. Four Star Meat Products Co. Inc., a Forest Park, GA, firm, is voluntarily recalling approximately 713 pounds of fully cooked boneless hams that may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced Tuesday, March 16. The products subject to recall are vacuum sealed packages of "SLICED HAM, WATER ADDED" shipped in seven pound boxes. Each box is marked with the box code 30804 and bears the establishment number "EST 8099" inside the USDA mark of inspection. The product was produced on March 8, 2004 and was shipped to a warehouse in Chattanooga, TN. According to the company, all of the product is being held at that location. The problem was discovered through routine FSIS microbiological testing.

Source: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OA/recalls/prelease/pr008-2004.htm>

18. *March 15, Food and Drug Administration* — Sea Specialties Brand recalls smoked salmon. Sea Specialties Inc. of Miami, FL, is recalling its 4 oz., 8 oz., and 16 oz. packages of "Sea Specialties Brand Hand Packed Thin Sliced Smoked Atlantic Salmon" because they have the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, an organism which can be serious and sometimes cause fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. **The recalled "Sea Specialties Brand Hand Packed Thin Sliced Smoked Atlantic Salmon" was distributed in Florida, Missouri, Illinois, Alabama, California and Pennsylvania in retail stores. The product comes in 4 oz., 8 oz., or**

16 oz. sizes with Sell By August 30, 2004 stamped on the front or on a sticker on the back of the packages. The potential for contamination was noted after routine testing by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services revealed the presence of *Listeria monocytogenes* in 4 oz. packages of "Sea Specialties Brand Hand Packed Thin Sliced Smoked Atlantic Salmon" with a sell by date of August 30, 2004.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/seaspecialties03_04.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

19. *March 17, Baltimore Sun* — **Baltimore County homes, businesses lose water. A water main break that left up to 200,000 Baltimore County, MD, residents in Owings Mills, Pikesville, Randallstown and Woodlawn without water Wednesday, March 17, should be repaired by early evening, city Department of Public Works officials said.** The lack of water forced Baltimore County officials to close 34 schools. Residents were without water or had low water pressure after two mains broke at a pumping station near Pikesville on Monday, March 15. Kurt Kocher, a Baltimore Public Works spokesperson, said the repair of a broken 36-inch main should restore water to everyone. **The cause of the break is not known, he said. The initial break was exacerbated when a 54-inch main — where water was diverted — turned out to be cracked and in need of repair.** The initial break occurred at a pumping station by Park Heights Avenue just south of the Baltimore Beltway, said Robert H. Murrow, also a city public works spokesperson. He said water was diverted to the backup 54-inch pipe "that had a crack in it," so water pressure dropped. Officials expect the 54-inch pipe will probably take a few days to repair.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-water0317.0.3383554.story?coll=bal-home-headlines>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health Sector

20. *March 17, Associated Press* — **Travelers sickened at Las Vegas hotels.** Downtown hotels are stepping up sanitation efforts after the number of people who reported being sickened by a virus during visits over the past four months climbed past the 1,000 mark. Most of the people who reported catching the highly contagious Norwalk-like virus are Hawaii residents who stayed in Boyd Gaming Corp. hotels in downtown Las Vegas, officials said. Clark County Health District spokesman Dave Tonelli said the good news is that there seems to be a decrease in the number of new cases, down to 74 for the week of March 5–12. The Norwalk virus, or norovirus, can cause diarrhea, stomach pain and vomiting for 24 to 48 hours. The virus is spread through food and water and close contact with infected people or things they have touched. It has been known to afflict travelers on cruise ships. **The source of the Las Vegas outbreak hasn't been identified, but most of the cases involved people who stayed or visited the California, Fremont and Main Street Station hotels. Boyd sells many Las Vegas packages to Hawaiians. Boyd has since increased sanitation through its properties, including using hospital-grade disinfectants and cleaning public bathrooms hourly.** Boyd has said some

Hawaii customers have canceled their trips to Las Vegas since the news spread about the virus. The total number of cases was 1,174 as of Monday, March 15.

Source: <http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/mld/ledgerenquirer/news/natio n/8207666.htm>

21. *March 17, Science Daily* — **Tuberculosis strains stay close to home.** Taking advantage of the open-air laboratory that is San Francisco, Peter Small, MD, has collected samples of virtually every case of tuberculosis that has occurred in the city for the last 13 years — almost 3,000 total. In this week's advance online edition of The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the associate professor of infectious diseases and geographic medicine at the Stanford University School of Medicine and his colleagues present a genetic analysis of 100 of these samples. The findings suggest ways the bacteria can escape a host's immune system or develop antibiotic resistance. **The team took its analysis a step further in a second paper, which appears in the same edition of the journal. They found that people from different regions of the world carry different strains of the tuberculosis bacteria, pointing out the importance of sociological interactions in infectious disease transmission.** This also raises the possibility that the pathogen evolves within a geographic population group and doesn't spread to other groups. Tuberculosis causes more adult deaths than any other infectious disease. Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2004/03/040316072025.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

22. *March 17, Washington Post* — **Emergency waterway route is prepared; Washington, DC would get supplies from landing craft.** The American Red Cross has developed a plan to ferry emergency supplies and vehicles to Washington, DC, over waterways using military-style landing craft in case the region's roads and bridges are closed or damaged during a terrorist attack. The relief agency's National Capital Area chapter seeks to test the feasibility of landing vehicles at 10 points along the Potomac and Anacostia rivers in the District, Virginia and Maryland in coming weeks. The 74-foot steel craft could carry ambulances, food kitchens, communications vehicles or other gear. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A64520-2004Mar 16.html>

23. *March 17, WBBM News (Chicago)* — **Reprogramming starts for Chicago fire department radios.** Trying to thwart people who have made racial slurs over Chicago fire department radio frequency, the city's Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) Wednesday, March 17, will start reprogramming all radios in the fire department system. **"This and other enhancements will not only make our system more secure, but will make it possible to isolate and identify those radio signals coming from units not authorized by the fire department,"** OEMC Executive Director Cortez Trotter said in a release. Larry Langford, spokesperson for the agency, said the system was vulnerable to use by outsiders

"copying" official fire radios by downloading software available on the Internet and reprogramming non-fire department radios to transmit a numeric ID code. **The fire department will confer with the city's Law Department about creating harsher penalties for unauthorized people who use the department's radio frequency, according to the release.**

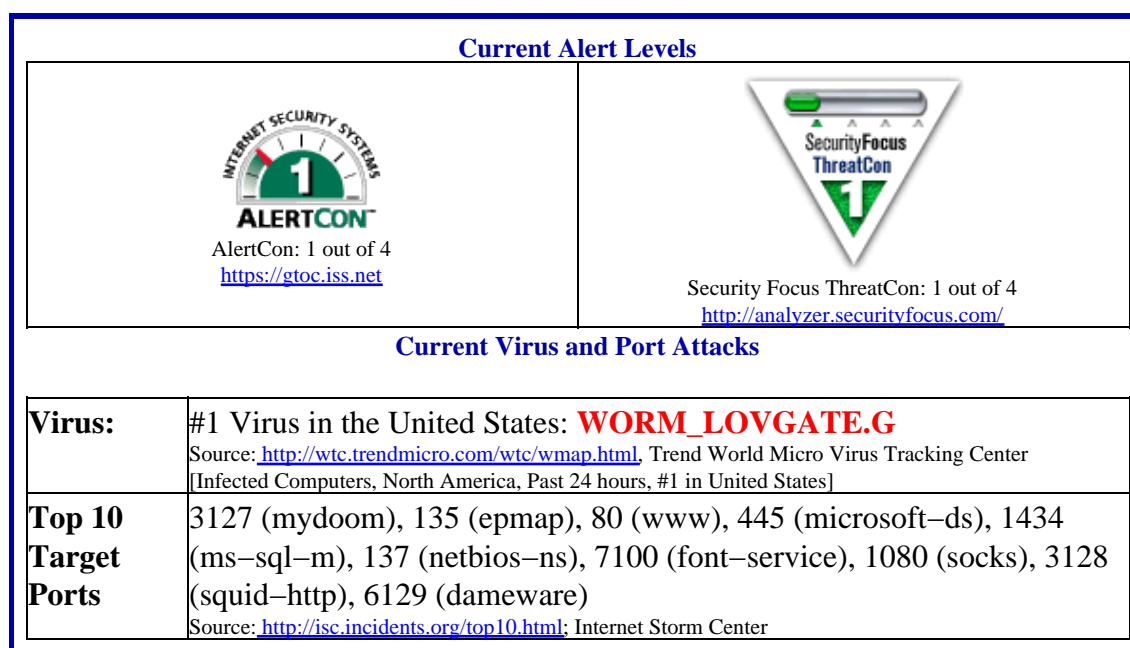
Source: <http://www.wbbm780.com/asp/ViewMoreDetails.asp?ID=35802>

[[Return to top](#)]

Information and Telecommunications Sector

24. *March 16, Techworld* — **Macromedia struck by two security holes.** Macromedia has revealed two security holes. The first is described as a "moderate" risk and affects all Mac OS X versions of its latest MX software. The issue is in the e-licensing part of its installation software. **If the software is installed on machines with several users, it is possible for one user to get hold of the privileges of another.** This affects Flash MX, Dreamweaver MX, Studio MX and Fireworks MX. A patch is available here: http://www.macromedia.com/devnet/security/security_zone/mpsb_04-03.html Described as "critical," the second concerns how the software handles SOAP requests (an XML standard for web services messages). Due to an unspecified error, **a specially constructed SOAP message can be used to eat up available CPU and memory and so act as a denial of service attack.** ColdFusion MX 6.0 and 6.1 and JRun 4.0 are all affected. A patch is available here: http://www.macromedia.com/devnet/security/security_zone/mpsb_04-04.html
Source: http://www.techworld.com/news/index.cfm?fuseaction=displayne_ws&NewsID=1214
25. *March 16, ZDNet UK* — **Bagle eats Netsky as the worm turns.** The latest variants of Bagle (N, O and P) can kill some of Netsky's processes and also delete its start-up keys from the Windows Registry, F-Secure's Mikko Hyppönen said. "By removing the email proxy inserted by MyDoom and Bagle, Netsky probably has limited the size of these attack networks quite considerably, which has limited the amount of spam people receive," he said. The author of Netsky told security researchers through a coded message on March 9 that he was not going to produce any more variants, but that he would be publishing the worm's source code. Since then, there have been three new variants of Netsky which researchers believe may have been written by different people. **This change in Netsky's "ownership" combined with a more aggressive Bagle is likely to mean that more computers will be infected and converted into spam proxies,** which will mean more spam.
Source: http://news.zdnet.co.uk/internet/security/0,39020375,3914931_6,00.htm
26. *March 09, General Accounting Office* — **Report GAO-04-467: Information Security: Technologies to Secure Federal Systems.** Federal agencies rely extensively on computerized information systems and electronic data to carry out their missions. **The security of these systems and data is essential to preventing data tampering, disruptions in critical operations, fraud, and inappropriate disclosure of sensitive information.** GAO was asked by the Chairmen of the House Committee on Government Reform and its Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and the Census to identify commercially available, state-of-the-practice cybersecurity technologies that federal agencies can use to defend their computer systems against cyber attacks. Highlights:

Internet Alert Dashboard



[[Return to top](#)]

General Sector

27. *March 17, Associated Press* — **Student charged in California SUV arson, vandalism spree.** Billy Cottrell, a 23-year-old graduate physics student from Pasadena, was indicted for **damaging or destroying vehicles at car dealerships and homes in the Los Angeles area last August**, said Thom Mrozek, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office on Wednesday. Cottrell, who could face life in prison, has been held without bail since his arrest on March 9. His attorney, Stephen Alexander, said Cottrell was innocent and declined further comment. According to an FBI affidavit, Cottrell contacted the Los Angeles Times by e-mail using an alias and told the paper he was involved in the firebombings. The California Institute of Technology student signed the e-mails ELF, short for Earth Liberation Front, according to the affidavit. Authorities searched Caltech classrooms and tracked the e-mails to Cottrell. **The Earth Liberation Front has claimed responsibility for a string of arsons in Detroit, Philadelphia and San Diego, where a fire last year destroyed a 206-unit apartment complex under construction, doing \$50 million worth of damage.**
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2004-03-17-suv-arson_x.htm
28. *March 17, The Christian Science Monitor* — **Do terrorists play election politics?** While it is not yet certain that al Qaeda was behind the bombings in Spain on March 11, **terrorists are likely to draw the conclusion that carefully timed attacks can influence electoral outcomes.** While many factors ultimately lay behind the defeat of retiring Prime Minister José María Aznar's conservative Popular Party in the election Sunday, March 14, the Madrid

massacre is widely believed to be one of them. **Osama bin Laden has long targeted Spain. In his 1996 declaration of war against the U.S., he mentioned reclaiming Andalucia as a goal.** That is the name Arabs gave to southern Spain, which was part of the Muslim Empire until 1492. Intelligence officials do not yet know if the suspects in the Madrid bombings were acting on direct orders from the al Qaeda leadership, or if they were simply inspired, supported, trained, or funded by the group. **But what's clear is that al Qaeda is morphing into more of a global movement than a terror group with a simple agenda.**

Source: <http://csmonitor.com/2004/0317/p01s02-wogi.html>

29. *March 17, CNN* — **Powerful blast shatters Baghdad hotel. A powerful explosion, apparently from a car bomb, went off in central Baghdad on Wednesday, March 17, killing 27 people and wounding 41, according to senior U.S. military officials. The blast virtually destroyed the Mount Lebanon Hotel and damaged a number of houses and offices nearby.** Col. Ralph Baker, a U.S. Army spokesman, said officials believe the car bomb was "in excess of 1,000 pounds." Most of the dead were in the houses and shops that surrounded the residential hotel in the narrow street, Baker said. The blast rocked the Karrada neighborhood in central Baghdad about 8:10 p.m. (12:10 p.m. ET), leaving a large crater in front of where the hotel had stood. Ambulances rushed away with casualties. Rescuers searched amid burning timbers and crumpled brick for survivors. The explosion occurred near Firdos Square, where the large statue of Saddam Hussein was pulled down in early April. The location, in a busy area of the city, has been the scene of attacks in the past. The unfortified, unprotected hotel is a residence hotel that often houses business people. The blast scene is also close to the Palestine Hotel, where many foreign journalists stay.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/meast/03/17/iraq.main/index.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

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